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Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/53/L.18/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. In operative paragraph 10 of Part I of draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.18/Rev.1, the General Assembly would take note of decisions 7 (53) and 8 (53) of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination regarding organizational matters, would authorize the Secretary-General to extend, on a temporary basis, the Committee's summer sessions in 1999 and 2000 for five working days, and would decide to further consider the two decisions at its fifty-fifth session.

2. The draft resolution is related to programme 19, Human rights, subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights organs and bodies, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. Related activities are reflected in paragraph 22.48, subparagraphs (i)–(iii), of section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.

3. The extension of the summer sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would require full meeting servicing and interpretation in five United Nations official languages during five working days, with two meetings a day, or an additional 10 meetings per year. Provisions would also be required to cover the cost of the daily subsistence allowance of the 18 members of the Committee for a period of seven days annually.

4. The programme of work included under section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 would be modified as follows:

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Subprogramme 2. Supporting human rights bodies and organs

Activities

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings: Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. One hundred and thirty meetings (60 in 1998 and 70 in 1999)

5. The additional costs entailed by the extension of the summer session of the Committee in 1999 would be as follows:

	United States dollars
Section 22. Human rights	
Subsistence allowances for 18 members of the Committee	33 200
Section 1B. Conference services	
Meeting servicing and interpretation	48 400
Pre-session documentation	48 600
Summary records	83 700
Post-session documentation	9 500
Other requirements	6 800
Total section 1B	**197 000**

6. The above estimates for conference-servicing are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of these requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity included under section 1B, General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999. The extent to which the Organization's permanent conference-servicing capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998–1999. Provision has, however, been made under section 1B of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparations but also for meetings which might be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years. As a result, no additional appropriation would be required under section 1B of the programme budget.

7. No resources have been included under section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 to cover the additional requirements of $33,200 for the subsistence allowance of the 18 members of the Committee. At this stage, it is not anticipated that these requirements could be absorbed within the provisions included under section 22 of the programme budget.

8. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium.

9. No activities could be identified, at this stage, for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 in order to accommodate the additional requirements of $33,200 referred to above.

10. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/53/L.18/Rev.1, an additional provision of $33,200 would be required over and above the resources approved under section 22, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999. The additional requirements for the year 2000 would be dealt with in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.